

Oct 1964

SUBJECT: DS-167, an East German psychologist by training, subsequently transferred to work in the field of physiological optics at the Institute for Optics and Spectroscopy, Berlin/Adlershof, defected with his fiancée in West Berlin on 28 August 1964. His claimed reason for defection was his general dissatisfaction with conditions in East Germany, and especially his unhappiness with the Berlin wall, which separated him from his mother and sister, both residing in West Berlin.

1. Personal Data

DS-167 was born in Berlin-Neukoelln (presently West Berlin), Germany, on 15 October 1925, the son of a chauffeur. He left home shortly after World War II, to accept employment as an elementary school teacher. He married Annelise Krumbiegel, but was divorced in April 1963. He was accompanied on his defection to the West by his fiancée, Silvia Schueler, an East German kindergarten nurse, born in Berlin-Pankow on 15 September 1943. DS-167 states he joined the German Socialist Party (SPD) in East Germany in 1945, and automatically became a member of the Communist Party when the two parties were merged in 1946. He further states he remained a nominal member until 1959, when he was dropped from the Party rolls because of lack of interest in Party activities. It appears that his fiancée's strong pro-West attitude was a factor in his decision to come to the West.

2. Qualifications

From his employment at the Institute for Optics and Spectroscopy, DS-167 is well informed on activities, organization, and personnel at the optics half of the institute. In 1957 he was sent on a three-week official orientation visit to Czechoslovakia, where he visited the Institute of Neuro-Physiology in Prague, and the Czechoslovak Academy of Sciences in Bratislava.² He also had the opportunity to attend congresses on psychology at Bonn (1960), Heidelberg (1959), and Paris (1960). [Gast] is very cooperative and willing to give all the information he has. Except for specific dates, he appears to have a good memory and an ability to recall details. He expresses himself clearly. Although no attempt has been or will be made to establish his bona fides, he has been identified and there is no reason to expect his information to be anything but accurate and reliable.

3. Languages

DS-167 has a fair command of French in addition to his native German.

4. Education

1931 - 1936 Elementary school in Berlin-Neukoelln, Germany

1936 - 1943 Secondary school (Realgymnasium) in Berlin-Neukoelln. In 1945, immediately after the war, he returned for a short time in order to complete his studies at this school.

- 1/ Institut fuer Optiks und Spektroskopie "AS".
- 2/ Not specifically identified by Source.

S E C R E T

S-E-C-R-E-T

1949 - 1958 Humboldt University in East Berlin, majoring in psychology. He graduated with a degree in psychology in 1953. After obtaining his degree he accepted employment as an assistant professor at the university. At the same time, he engaged in research work at the university's Institute of Psychology, from where, in 1957, he was awarded his doctorate (rer. nat.) in psychology.

5. Employment

1945 - 1949 Teacher at an elementary school in Beeskow, District of Frankfurt/Oder, East Germany.

1953 - 1958 Assistant professor of psychology at Humboldt University's Institute of Psychology. There he also engaged in research work in the field of experimental child psychology.

1958 - 1964 Upon the recommendation of the then head of the Institute for Optics and Spectroscopy, Berlin/Adlershof, DS-167 voluntarily transferred to the institute's optics element. The institute was subordinate to the Academy of Sciences. As a scientific researcher he first worked on experiments in perception, particularly stereoscopic and stroboscopic work, and on experimental electrophysiology of the eye. In 1960, shortly after the Physiological Optics Laboratory was organized, DS-167 became its chief.

6. Military Service

DS-167 was drafted into the German army in 1943. After one month of basic training at the Grafenwoehr training area, he was sent to the Russian front, where he remained until spring 1944. After a short tour of duty in France, he was chosen to attend an officer's candidate school near Brno, Czechoslovakia, from where at the end of 1944, he graduated with the rank of lieutenant. Early in 1945 he was sent to the front in Hungary, where he was wounded and transferred to a military hospital in Vienna. He left the hospital on his own to evade the approaching Red Army. Source then made his way home to Berlin. He has had no subsequent military service or affiliation.

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